



Iran War Update: October 1–2, 2026

Ari Cicurel
*Associate Director of Foreign
Policy*

Yoni Tobin
Senior Policy Analyst

Jonah Brody
Policy Analyst

Sarah Havdala
Policy Analyst

Rena Gabber
Research Associate

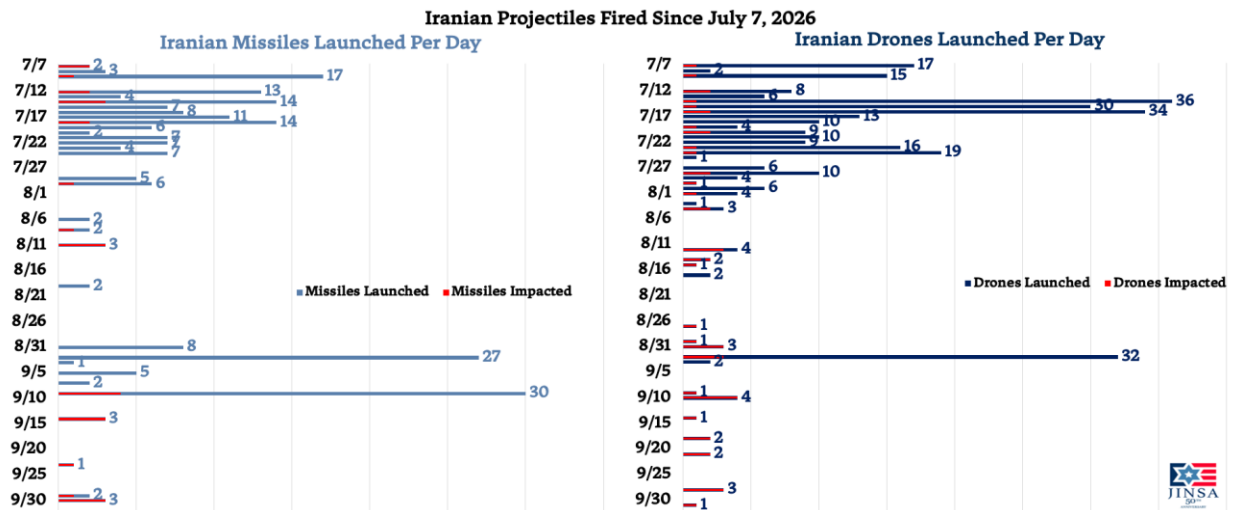
President Donald Trump and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian signed a now-expired Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on June 17, outlining terms to end the war and reopen the Strait of Hormuz over a 60-day period of further negotiations. However, on July 8, President Trump [declared](#) the MOU to be “over,” and both sides have resumed exchanging fire. JINSA continues to release regular updates about the conflict. The update below includes information since [JINSA's last update](#) as of October 2 at 9:45 am ET.

Iranian missiles and drones launched since July 7: **At least 564** (1 on October 1–2)

Brent Crude Oil Price: **[\\$98.90 a barrel](#)** as of **9:00 am ET** ([day range](#): \$98.92–102.85)

1. Overview

- On October 1, when asked how the administration plans to reach a deal with an irrational Iranian regime, President Trump [replied](#), “Maybe you blow them up.” He added, “We have to make that decision: We blow them up or make a deal, but the time is coming. It's going to end very soon, one way or the other.”
- On October 1, *The Wall Street Journal* reported, citing senior American officials, that President Trump has told advisors he plans to [resume strikes](#) on Iran in November.
 - » The United States is sending a third aircraft carrier and between 9,000 and 10,000 additional U.S. forces to the Middle East, U.S. officials told the *Journal* on October 1.
 - » That force deployment, which [includes](#) the Makin Island Amphibious Ready Group and the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, is expected to arrive by the end of November.
- According to *Axios* reporting on October 1, the United States [deployed](#) two additional Patriot missile batteries to Saudi Arabia and Qatar last month to protect energy facilities, citing two American officials and a regional source.
- On October 1, when asked whether the Flydubai pilot who tried to crash a plane heading to Israel earlier this week was linked to Iran, President Trump [stated](#) that “I would say the answer based on what I’m hearing is yes.”
 - » That day, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu [told](#) Fox News that the pilot “underwent Islamist radical indoctrination,” without providing further details.



2. Diplomatic Engagement

- On October 2, the Trump administration [urged](#) European countries to release diesel reserves to help ease record fuel prices and supply disruptions stemming partly from the Iran war, while President Trump continued to consider a potential U.S. diesel export ban.

Iran

- According to *Bloomberg* reporting on October 1, in meetings with Mideast and European officials at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi [suggested](#) that Tehran would be willing to provide nuclear inspectors with access to bombed sites in return for sanctions relief.
- On September 28, Secretary of State Marco Rubio [ordered](#) Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and the Iranian delegation in the United States for the United Nations General Assembly to leave the country as U.S.-Iranian negotiations stalled, *Axios* reported, citing a U.S. official.

3. U.S., Israeli, and Arab Partner Operations

Iran

- On October 1, the Treasury Department [imposed](#) new sanctions under Operation Economic Outcast targeting Iran's automotive and rail sectors, including major automakers Iran Khodro and SAIPA and the state-owned Islamic Republic of Iran Railway Company, as well as international suppliers supporting the sectors.
 - » The Treasury said the measures targeted Iran's rail and automotive sectors because "they represent some of the regime's largest remaining sources of revenue and logistical capacity," with the U.S. naval blockade constraining maritime shipping.

Yemen

- On October 2, Yemen's Saudi-backed forces [launched](#) 20 airstrikes targeting Houthi fighters and military sites in the country's Taiz province.
- On October 1, as explosions [rocked](#) the Yemeni capital of Sanaa, Saba News Agency reported on "Saudi aggression," in an X post, suggesting anti-government fighters in Yemen blame Riyadh for the blasts.

4. Iranian and Proxy Operations

- On October 1, Reuters [reported](#), citing senior Iranian officials and a source familiar with internal discussions, that Iran was preparing a broader military response if the United States resumed large-scale attacks, potentially expanding its targets to countries supporting U.S. operations and locations outside the Middle East.
 - » Iranian officials had also reportedly instructed allied groups in Lebanon, Yemen, and Iraq to prepare for a coordinated response, while Tehran continued indirect negotiations with Washington through Qatari mediators.

Israel

- On October 2, Shin Bet and Israeli police [revealed](#) that they recently detained an Arab-Israeli citizen suspected of spying for Iran.
 - » Israeli authorities, who accuse the man of contacting and working for Iranian agents in exchange for compensation, claimed that he will be indicted today, October 2.

Maritime

- On October 2, *The New York Times*, citing a Western security official, [reported](#) that Tehran has carried out an average of 10 anti-ship missile and 30 drone attacks against commercial vessels in the Strait of Hormuz every week since early August.
- On October 1, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations Center (UKMTO) [reported](#) that a tanker in the Strait of Hormuz caught fire, but that the crew is safe, after an unknown projectile struck the ship.
- On October 1, an unnamed Iranian authority [announced](#) that three United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.)-linked Liberian-flagged tankers, *Al Ruwais*, *Sinbad* and *Mersin Prosperity*, came under attack in the Strait of Hormuz on September 30 for failing to adhere to Iran's control over the waterway.

Outside the Middle East

- On October 1, authorities [arrested](#) a U.S. Department of Energy employee and charged him with trying to provide material support to Iran's Houthi proxies.
 - » That employee, Ashton Ellaboudy, of Washington state, allegedly [traveled to Yemen](#) to help the Houthis build military communications systems. He also "acquired materials for the construction of explosive material and drones," according to the Department of Justice.
- On October 1, police [arrested](#) a dual U.K.-Iranian national in London on suspicion of plotting a terrorist attack connected to the possible terrorism plot near an air force base in Fairford that the United States has used for operations against Iran.
 - » On September 30, British Prime Minister Andy Burnham [revealed](#) during a BBC interview that "There are strong indications that Iran played a part in what happened over the weekend at RAF Fairford."
 - » Five other individuals had been arrested on suspicion of being involved in the plot and released on bail.

Saudi Arabia

- On October 1, the Saudi-backed forces in Yemen [announced](#) that they shot down two Houthi ballistic missiles targeting Khamis Mushait and Jazan, as well as four Houthi drones over Khamis Mushait in southern Saudi Arabia.
- On October 1, Yemen's Saudi-backed fighters [revealed](#) that on September 29, a Houthi drone struck the power distribution station in Medina providing electricity to the Prophet's Mosque.

- » While the electricity supply was not severed, the attack did disable a transformer.

5. Internal Iranian Dynamics

- On October 2, an Iranian parliamentary committee [advanced](#) legislation that would assert Iranian authority over commercial traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, including by requiring transit authorization and imposing fees for navigation and other services.
 - » The proposed legislation would prohibit passage by vessels linked to Israel, countries Iran considers hostile or to have conducted military operations against Iran, and ships carrying military cargo.

6. International Response

- On October 2, Pakistan [announced](#) that an emergency meeting of the Pakistan-Turkey-Saudi Arabia strategic political defense committee would be held in Saudi Arabia next week to discuss Houthi attacks against the kingdom.
- On October 2, Iraq's ambassador to Iran, Yasser Abdul Zahra al-Hajjaj, [said](#) flights between Iran and Iraq would resume despite U.S. sanctions restricting international companies and countries from providing services to Iranian airlines.
- After initially setting a September 30 deadline for Iranian proxy militia in his country to disarm, Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi [announced](#) a new deadline of June 30, 2027.
 - » The Iraqi leader said in an October 1 statement that there is now a “clear roadmap and agreed timelines” for disarmament by June 30.

7. JINSA Resources

- Ari Cicurel, [Resupply Israel to Deter Iran and Protect U.S. Forces](#), September 23, 2026
- VADM Jeff Trussler, USN (ret.) and Sarah Havdala, [The US Needs an Information-Warfare Strategy for Iran — And Beyond](#), September 21, 2026
- Jonah Brody, [The Houthis Close in on the Gulf's Oil Export Lifeline](#), September 17, 2026
- Sarah Havdala, [Iran in the Wake of Women, Life, Freedom](#), September 16, 2026
- Giran Ozcan, [The United States Cannot Afford to Abandon the Kurdistan Region](#), September 14, 2026
- Ari Cicurel and Jonah Brody, [All Is Not Quiet on the Houthi Front](#), September 11, 2026
- Michael Makovsky, PhD, [Why Iran Fears Israel, But Not America](#), September 9, 2026
- Michael Makovsky, PhD, and Blaise Misztal, [How to Win the Iran War](#), September 3, 2026
- Michael Makovsky, PhD, John Hannah, Blaise Misztal, and Jonathan Ruhe, [Shifting the Center of Gravity: Transforming the U.S.-Israel Security Partnership](#), August 18, 2026
- Gen Charles Wald, USAF (ret.), VADM Mark Fox, USN (ret.), and VADM John W. Miller, USN (ret.), [“U.S. Must Reopen the Strait of Hormuz,” The Washington Times](#), August 3, 2026
- Yoni Tobin, [Not Bottlenecks, But Strategic Opportunities: Making Room for More U.S. Refueling Tankers in Israel](#), August 3, 2026

Estimated Casualties of Iran War Operations

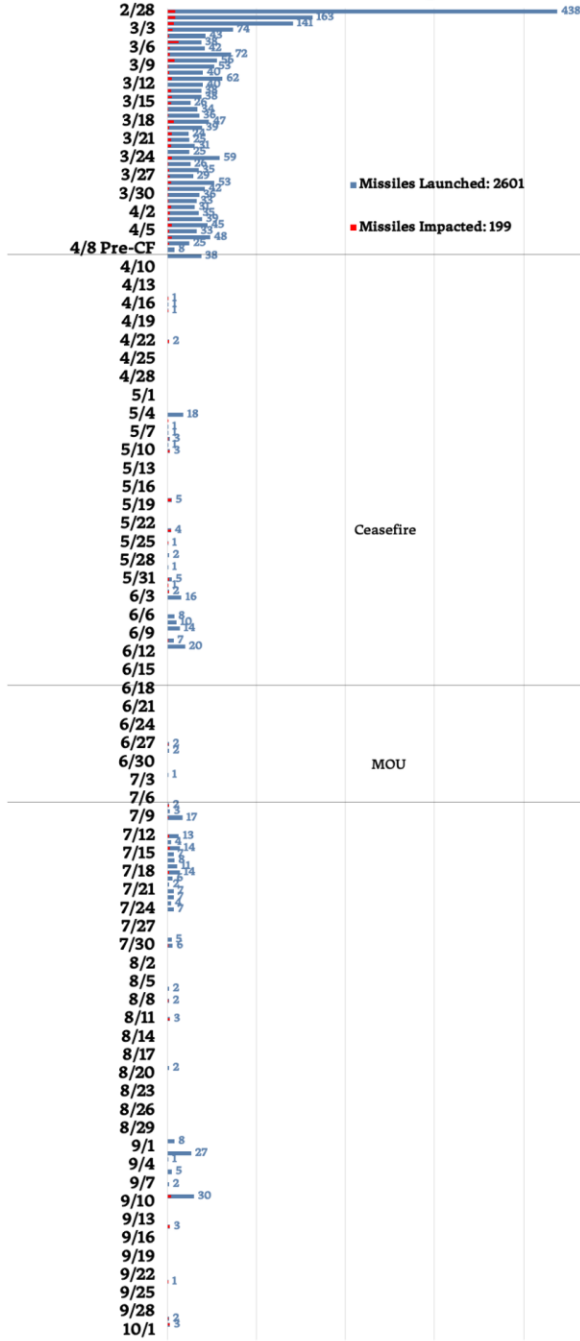


<i>Country</i>	<i>Killed</i>	<i>Injured</i>	<i>Notes</i>
United States	19	861	1 missing; 10 seriously wounded; 100 wounded in July; 358+ returned to duty
Israel	67+	7,800+	Killed include 26 civilians and 41 troops killed fighting Hezbollah (40 soldiers, 1 contractor)
Iran	3,724+	26,580+	Includes 1,221+ military; Iran International reports 4,700+ security personnel killed
Azerbaijan	—	4	All civilians
Bahrain	3	46	Killed include a Moroccan contractor; injured include 5 Emirati soldiers
Iraq	127	Several	Includes 28 in Iraqi Kurdistan
Jordan	—	31+	
Kuwait	9	161+	Injured includes 90 soldiers
Lebanon	4,386	12,407	Figures do not distinguish Hezbollah operatives from civilians
Oman	3+	17+	
Qatar	7	23	Killed occurred in March 22 helicopter crash
Saudi Arabia	3	47	Killed include 1 Saudi national and 2 foreign nationals
Syria	4+	Several	
United Arab Emirates	12	230	
International Waters	22	Several	

Data compiled by JINSA from various sources.

Iranian Projectiles Fired During 2026 War

Iranian Missiles Launched Per Day



Iranian Drones Launched Per Day

